

AMK MAR 31 1981

Baxter

March 25, 1981

MEMO TO: L. G. HOPE
FROM: M. C. SPIES
SUBJECT: Accidental Pentachlorophenol Spill-Arlington Plant

At approximately 10:00pm, 3/23/81, I received a call at home from our security patrol advising a spill had occurred at the Arlington Plant. Upon my arrival at the plant at about 10:15pm I observed a spill from the butt tank covering an approximate area from the tank as follows: 30' North, 75' Northwest, 30' West, 20' South, 20' East. At that time I shut the system down and inspected the spill to confirm containment and that no probability existed for spill into a drain ditch or sump area. I left the plant at 11:15pm.

In the a.m. of 3/24/81, cleanup of the spill had begun by Baxter plant personnel using a skimmer from the Renton Plant for the liquid of which we recovered approximately 300 gallons back to the system. Contaminated soils were picked up by shovel and a backhoe loader and then transported to a drained area of the plant being placed on visqueen plastic and covered with same. These soils are being held for inspection by the State D. O. E. and then ultimate disposal which will probably be the Chem-Security Systems facility at Arlington, Oregon.

At 9:15 am on 3/24/81 I called the U. S. Coast Guard (800-424-8802) and reported the spill to Petty Officer Mackey. I advised Officer Mackey that we estimate approximately 600 lbs. in solution (1400 gallons) of pentachlorophenol had spilled and further advised the time, location, containment situation and measures in progress to clean up the spill.

At 9:30 am on 3/24/81, I called the E.P.A., Region X, Seattle office and reported the spill information to Bill Schmidt. At approximately 1:15 pm Carl Kitz of the E.P.A., Environmental Emergency Section, arrived at the plant for an onsite inspection of the spill and our method of cleanup. Mr. Kitz advised that I should contact the State Dept. of Ecology (D.O.E.).

At 2:15 pm I called the State D.O.E. and reported the spill to Stu Messman. At 4:30 pm, Dave Wright of the D.O.E. arrived at the plant for an onsite inspection and information on how the spill occurred. Mr. Wright advised that another inspector from the D. O. E. would visit us on 3/25 for a more extensive review.

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In our judgement this spill was the result of heavy rains and water from the pump room sump pump being dropped on top of the 230° circulated solution which caused a foam up and overflow of the butt tank. We have now re-routed the discharge of the sump pump to a waste storage tank as we feel this additional water source may have been a contributing factor.

Per our conversation, our current plans of containment of this facility, which were scheduled for completion this year, have been given priority for design and installation and other corrective measures are in progress.

Please review and advise.


M. C. Spies

cc: WLM
WOS

INCIDENT INVESTIGATION
LABORATORY OF BIOLOGY

MAR 26 1981

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